

## Minutes of the June 3, 2013 City Council Meeting

The June 3, 2013, meeting of the Good Thunder city council was called to order, at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Robert Anderson. The meeting convened in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Court, Good Thunder, Minnesota. Council members present, Kim Hernandez; Kenton Giese; Sarah Karels; Arlen Ostermann. Others in attendance: Brian Severns, Water-Wastewater Operator; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Fire Chief, Phil Klammer; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer. Not present: Jerry Birr, City Maintenance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Kim Hernandez made a motion to approve the agenda with additions as discussed. Council member Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kenton Giese made a motion to approve the May 6, 2013, city council minutes with the noted correction. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Dick Wetzel, Municipal Sales, for Ferguson Waterworks provided information on the hand held Neptune water meter. The council was informed that the Neptune meters are 100% American made, and since 2001 the meters have been made of a lead free bronze alloy. The Safe Water Drinking Act passed in 2010 states that after January 1, 2014, anything newly installed, that touches water, must be lead free. The council was informed that anything currently in place within the city would be allowed to remain under the new act. Wetzel explained some of the key features of the meter: 8-digit remote reading, highly accurate, tamper resistant, leaking meters are flagged improving meter reading accuracy. Consumption is recorded hourly. If a statement is questioned, regarding high usage, 96 days of history for the meter can be retrieved. The meter has a lithium replaceable battery that is separate from the dial. Neptune meters are the only meters that have this feature. The meters are estimated to last 20 years with the battery estimated to last 10 years. The Neptune's handheld computer can be used to record readings. The reading would then be downloaded into the Clerk-Treasurer's computer through a specific program that would need to be purchased. This computer program is estimated to cost \$9,000. Installation of the meters was discussed. Ferguson Waterworks employees are qualified individuals; some of whom are plumbers, who would install the meters. For installation of the meters letters would be sent to homeowners asking the homeowner to contact a specific phone number, or by website, to set up an installation appointment. The cost for the Neptune meter is \$175 plus a \$65 installation fee per meter. Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, asked if the company would provide any form of financing. They do not. However, the city would be eligible for a low interest form of financing provided by Minnesota Rural Water Association. The council thanked Mr. Wetzel for his presentation.

Vickie Hollerich presented, to Police Chief Jeffrey Marx, pictures she had taken of properties she felt were public nuisances. Discussion followed with Police Chief Marx informing the council that he has spoken to specific property owners, regarding nuisances, has currently provided them a timeframe for amending the situation, and has explained that a citation will be issued if the problem is not corrected. If the problem persists, the City Attorney becomes involved. Public nuisances were discussed at length. It was suggested that Clerk-Treasurer Barnard contact the City Attorney, Chris Kennedy, and ask how nuisances are to be handled.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann informed the council that Lyra Township representative, John Caven, questioned him about trees planted in the right-of-way along Mielke Street. Discussion followed and the council directed Councilor Ostermann to inform Mr. Caven that the township can proceed with having the trees removed.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the time sheets for 4-27-13 thru 5-11-13 and 5-11-13 thru 5-25-2013. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the following Zoning Permits:

**GT-03-13**, Adrien Fleming, 216 Middle Street, install wooden swing set in northeast corner of my lot and sometime this summer install an 8' x 10' garden shed on the northwest corner of lot.

**GT-04-13**, Chuck & Kim Hernandez, 846 Chapel Street, storage shed, 8' x 12'.

**GT-05-13**, Ervin Wrucke, 401 Ewing Ct., replace concrete portion of driveway & front steps. Replace concert outside back garage door.

Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried with Councilor Kim Hernandez abstaining from voting on the GT-04-13 Zoning Permit.

The council reviewed an estimate from Nielsen Blacktopping, Inc. for proposed street repairs. The estimate included milling edges & clean areas, overlays, remove existing curb & gutter, furnish and place concrete curb and gutter etc. The estimated cost was \$75,485.50. However, the council removed Halladay Street South from the project as the cost was \$34,502.50 to mill edges & clean area, adjust all irons, furnish & apply bituminous tack coat, and furnish and place 2" asphalt overly.

Councilor Kim Hernandez made a motion to approve the estimate from Nielsen Blacktopping Inc. They are to do all projects as listed, but remove the Halladay Street project from the estimate. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The council indicated that there would be additional small projects that would be included when Nielsen Blacktopping is in the city.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, informed the council that the police department responded to sixty-four (64) calls for service during the month of May, 2013. Police Chief Marx discussed with council pedestrian crossing signs etc. for Main Street by the city park. The council directed Police Chief Marx to order what he feels is beneficial for safety concerns. Marx informed the council that he would like to attend a two-day training course, to be held in Bloomington, on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> regarding active shooting in schools.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion that Police Chief Marx attends the training class June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> as discussed. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Kim Hernandez suggested attending the meeting with area police departments and Police Chief Marx agreed with this suggestion.

Police Chief Marx thanked the Good Thunder Fire Department, Vernon Center Fire Department, Amboy Fire Department and Blue Earth County Sheriff's Department for their support in the D.A.R.E. Program.

Councilor Kenton Giese brought up for discussion a letter that had been submitted to the council regarding an incident involving a part-time police officer. Police Chief Marx informed the council that the matter had been addressed with the officer. The council was informed that the Police Committee had met with Police Chief Marx on May 31<sup>st</sup> and informed of the situation.

Mayor Robert Anderson addressed a concern he has regarding police officers not having the squad car parking lights on when sitting on the shoulder of the road on a public roadway. Police Chief Marx stated that this is an issue that can be addressed, and given out as a directive.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion approving the part-time police officers payroll for the month of May 2013. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Anderson questioned what the council felt should be done if the part-time officer's payroll exceeds the budgeted amount. Mayor Anderson stated that he felt that the budget needs to be followed.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, informed the council that the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department responded to two (2) medical calls during the month of May. Firefighter Tom Traetow has completed his 101 training. Fire Chief Klammer informed the council that the fire department had received a monetary donation from the family of Bob Dalluge in the amount of \$5,024.83. Klammer stated that Bob Dalluge was a supporter and true friend of the fire department. The Dalluge's wish was that the money be used for equipment that the fire department deemed necessary.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion accepting a check from the family of Bob Dalluge in the amount of \$5,024.83. This monetary gift will be used for the purchase of an air pack for the Good Thunder Volunteer Fire Department. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, informed the council that she has had to purchase a new computer for City Hall. The Residential Rental Ordinance was to be discussed, but will be discussed at a later council meeting due to the length of this council meeting. Ms. Barnard presented information from Jeff Dale, Minnesota Rural Water, regarding maps that can be provided to the city. In the past, the city had shown an interest in obtaining detailed mapping of the city utilities. Minnesota Rural Water can provide the following at a cost of \$4,200:

- Sanitary sewer lines/manholes with flow directions
- Water mains/fire hydrants/gate valves (will place in curb stops if they are flagged)
- Will provide 5' x 4' wall maps (2) 1 sanitary sewer and 1 water main
- 2 laminated 2' x 3' maps
- Maps will have GPS coordinates/and a PDF file will be provided for updates

Discussion followed. There was no interest in such maps at this time.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion approving the bills as submitted and distributed. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kenton Giese thanked Vickie Hollerich for tiling and seeding the lawn next to city hall and at the water treatment plant.

Mayor Robert Anderson presented a quote, from Vernon Center Lumber, for rafters for the concession stand roof. Discussion followed.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to approve the quote for rafters for the concession stand from Vernon Center Lumber in the amount of \$8,934.14. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kim Hernandez presented information from Kendell Division 10 regarding toilet partitions and other bathroom accessories for the concession stand project; and an estimate from Blaschko Building Supply Company for a utility shed for Thunder Valley Park. Discussion and review of the materials followed.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion to approve a 10' x 12' wood sided building with a five (5) foot roll-up door to be placed at Thunder Valley Park. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion approving the following items be purchased from Kendell Division 10 for the concession stand. Section 102113: Special Lite Toilet Partitions-\$3,988; Section 102800: Toilet, Bath & Laundry Accessories-\$1,599; Section 104400: Fire Protection Specialties-\$151 for a total of \$5,738. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Wastewater Operator, Brain Severns, informed the council that at the lagoon site pump # 2 has been repaired and pump #1 needs to be repaired.

Councilor Sarah Karels informed the council that she had received a text from Adam Hollerich of the Softball League and was informed that the league will donate \$400 towards the purchase of a utility shed for the softball field.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

It was stated that the council will meet in closed session following the adjournment of this meeting to discuss the MinnStar Bank building.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard  
Clerk-Treasurer